From: Morning Consult
To: lmartin@bakersfieldpd.us
Subject: Morning Consult Tech, Presented by T-Mobile: Italy Investigating Antitrust Allegations Against Google
Date: Friday, May 17, 2019 5:03:21 AM

By Sam Sabin

Top Stories

- Italian antitrust regulators are investigating Google to determine if the company is abusing its position in the smart device market after Google allegedly refused to add the "Enel X Recharge" app to its Android Auto app, which allows users to use some phone tools while driving. Regulators expect the probe to be complete by May 30 next year, and Google said it is "reviewing the complaint." (CNBC)

- California's Senate blocked a bill endorsed by state Attorney General Xavier Becerra aimed at expanding residents' ability to sue companies for violating the state's forthcoming data privacy law. Under the law, which takes effect in 2020, consumers can only sue over a data breach and file complaints about possible violations to the attorney general's office. (Reuters)

- Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) said during a speech at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that he expects his committee to renew a push to regulate the safety and security of autonomous vehicles after a failed attempt during the previous Congress. (The Hill)

Chart Review

The AI acquisitions war
Axios

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

05/17/2019

Engine and the Charles Koch Institute's panel discussion on GDPR one year later — 12:00 pm

05/20/2019

WSJ Future of Everything Festival

Interop ITX

05/21/2019

WSJ Future of Everything Festival

Interop ITX

05/22/2019

WSJ Future of Everything Festival

MIT Sloan CIO Symposium

Interop ITX

05/23/2019

WSJ Future of Everything Festival

Interop ITX

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General

How Xi's Last-Minute Switch on U.S.-China Trade Deal Upended It
Chris Buckley and Keith Bradsher, The New York Times

China's leader, Xi Jinping, seemed confident three weeks ago that a yearlong trade war with the United States could soon subside, handing him a potent political victory. He even made a speech saying China would protect intellectual property, encourage foreign investment, and buy more goods and services from abroad - all changes the United States had been demanding as the countries tried to negotiate a deal.

Trump's Huawei sanctions underscore U.S. dependency on China tech
Greg Bensinger and Reed Albergotti, The Washington Post

U.S. suppliers to China-based Huawei would be affected quickly if a ban on exporting hardware and services proposed by the U.S. Commerce Department on Wednesday goes into effect. The telecommunications company said Thursday it spends more than $1 out of every $7 of its annual $70 billion procurement budget buying components from U.S. firms.

Ron Wyden wrote the law that built the internet. He still stands by it - and everything it's brought with it.
Emily Stewart, Vox

Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) is one of the co-authors of a law often credited with creating the internet as we know it - and he's got a few things he'd like to clear up about it. Among them: It doesn't mean private companies have to take a neutral stance about what is and isn't allowed on their platforms.

In Crystal City, Va., Amazon plans two eco-friendly towers with parks, day care and bike path
Patricia Sullivan, The Washington Post

Amazon submitted preliminary plans Wednesday for its new headquarters in Arlington County, announcing it will build 2.1 million square feet in a pair of 22-story office towers that meet high energy-efficient and environmental standards and include a public plaza and storage for 200 bicycles.

The future for Uber drivers won't be decided by the US government
Alison Griswold, Quartz

Earlier this week, the US National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) released an April 16 memo that says Uber drivers are independent contractors, not

employees, under US labor law.

NTSB: Autopilot was in use before Tesla hit semitrailer
Tom Krisher, The Associated Press

A Tesla Model 3 involved in a fatal crash with a semitrailer in Florida March 1 was operating on the company's semi-autonomous Autopilot system, federal investigators have determined. The car drove beneath the trailer, killing the driver, in a crash that is strikingly similar to one that happened on the other side of Florida in 2016 that also involved use of Autopilot.

Pinterest shares plummet on disappointing 2019 revenue forecast
Vibhuti Sharma and Akanksha Rana, Reuters

Pinterest Inc on Thursday forecast 2019 revenue broadly in line with Wall Street targets, disappointing investors who had expected more from the freshly public, high flying stock, and sending its shares down 16 percent.

Stocks Decline as China Toughens Trade Rhetoric: Markets Wrap
Robert Brand, Bloomberg

Stocks in Europe headed lower along with U.S. index futures as Chinese state media appeared to signal a tougher line on the trade dispute. The dollar edged higher and Treasury yields were steady.

Intellectual Property and Antitrust

Alibaba Faces EU Consumer Complaints Over Contract Terms
Stephanie Bodoni, Bloomberg

Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. faces complaints from six European consumer organizations into allegedly unfair user terms for its online retail service, arguing some of the clauses violate European Union law.

Telecom, Wireless and TV

SpaceX Again Delays Starlink Internet Satellite Launch
Kenneth Chang, The New York Times

For the second time in two nights, SpaceX, the private rocket company founded by Elon Musk, said on Thursday evening it would postpone the launch of dozens of satellites. Wednesday's attempt to launch Starlink, the company's bid to get into the space-based internet business, was postponed because of strong winds high in Earth's atmosphere.

FCC Commissioner: 'Repeat After Me: "Robocall" Is Not a Bad Word'
Patrick Howell O'Neill, Gizmodo

What's the absolute easiest way to unify America today? Go anti-robocall.

Sprint will launch 5G on May 31 in 4 cities with LG V50 and HTC 5G Hub
Jeremy Horwitz, VentureBeat

Having previously set general targets for its initial launch of 5G services and devices in the United States, Sprint says today that it will begin offering 5G in Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, and Kansas City on May 31, with its first 5G device preorders starting tomorrow, May 17. Early adopters will be able to purchase LG's V50 ThinQ 5G as a smartphone, or HTC's 5G Hub to provide 5G network connectivity to multiple Wi-Fi devices.

Mobile Technology and Social Media

Canada Plans 'Meaningful Financial Consequences' for Tech Companies That Spread Disinformation
Mack Lamoureux, Motherboard

Canada is introducing a digital charter that will impose "meaningful financial consequences" on tech companies if they don't reign in misinformation on their platforms, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Thursday.

Democrats, watchdog groups cry foul on Trump's social media 'bias' tipline
Cristiano Lima, Politico

The White House's invitation for Americans to report political bias by social media companies drew more blowback Thursday from Democratic lawmakers and watchdog groups, who said it raises serious concerns about online privacy,

data security and government ethics.

Facebook has struggled to hire talent since the Cambridge Analytica scandal, according to recruiters who worked there
Salvador Rodriguez, CNBC

Facebook is still reeling from the fallout of its Cambridge Analytica scandal more than a year ago, as multiple former recruiters say candidates are turning down job offers from what was once considered the best place to work in the United States.

Google, Facebook, Twitter still falling short in combating fake news: EU
Foo Yun Chee, Reuters

Facebook, Google and Twitter are still not doing enough to tackle fake news plaguing the election campaign to the European Parliament, the European Commission said on Friday in its latest report. The tech giants took a voluntary pledge last October to combat the spread of fake news, hoping to avoid more heavy-handed rules.

Facebook is overrun with fake accounts impersonating tech execs like Tim Cook, Elon Musk, and Sundar Pichai
Rob Price, Business Insider

Facebook has a fake account problem - and the Silicon Valley elite aren't going to like it. The California tech giant's social network is overrun by fraudulent accounts impersonating high-profile technology industry executives like Apple CEO Tim Cook, Tesla CEO Elon Musk, and Google CEO Sundar Pichai, Business Insider has found.

Inside Google's Civil War
Beth Kowitt, Fortune

It started in Tokyo on Nov. 1, 2018, when 100 employees walked out of Google's office at 11:10 a.m. local time. Thirteen hours later, the elevators at the company's New York City headquarters were so packed that workers took the stairs down to the street to protest.

Cybersecurity and Privacy

Alleged Cybercrime Kingpin Who Tried To Steal $100 Million From 44,000 PCs Charged
Thomas Brewster, Forbes

A cyber kingpin who masterminded a criminal conspiracy that broke into 44,000 computers and likely stole millions of dollars has been apprehended, the FBI and global law enforcement partners claimed Thursday morning.

Lawmakers: FBI can't say with 'certainty' Florida voter databases not affected by 2016 hack
Martin Matishak and Gary Fineout, Politico

Florida lawmakers once again railed against the FBI on Thursday for its handling of the investigation into Russian election tampering in the state, and expressed skepticism that the intrusion didn't alter voter rolls. After a briefing with the FBI about its investigation into the 2016 cyberattacks, members of the state's congressional delegation blasted the bureau for not even revealing the names of the affected counties for almost three years.

McCarthy: First step for regulating Big Tech is data transparency
Axios

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy called for regulation on data collection practices from tech giants like Facebook and Google at an Axios event in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, arguing that companies should not be able to leverage users' data without their knowledge.

Why campaigns turn down free cybersecurity
Joe Uchill, Axios

Cybersecurity outfits are itching to offer political campaigns free or cut-rate products to protect them from being hacked. But the campaigns, spooked by legal and technical concerns, keep turning them down.

The "smarter" wall: how drones, sensors, and AI are patrolling the border
Shirin Ghaffary, Vox

In an era of increasingly polarized politics, there are few issues as divisive as President Trump's proposal to build a physical wall across part of the 2,000-mile US-Mexico border.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

So You Want to Break Up Facebook
April Glaser, Slate

Facebook is big. Possibly too big. Which is why the chorus of experts and former Facebookers who think it's time to break the company up is getting louder.

Trump's Huawei Attack Finally Gives Rivals a Chance
Alex Webb, Bloomberg

Next-generation 5G networks are about a lot more than your mobile phone. They'll help run factories, offices, farms, hospitals, airports and more: the much vaunted "internet of things."

Research Reports

Garbage In, Garbage Out: Face Recognition On Flawed Data
Clare Garvie, Georgetown Law's Center on Privacy and Technology

On April 28, 2017, a suspect was caught on camera reportedly stealing beer from a CVS in New York City. The store surveillance camera that recorded the incident captured the suspect's face, but it was partially obscured and highly pixelated. When the investigating detectives submitted the photo to the New York Police Department's (NYPD) facial recognition system, it returned no useful matches.

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